



BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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During the month of April 2015, Bristol PD and law enforcement officers from across the state will be using a combination of traditional and innovative strategies to crack down on motorists who text and drive.

This effort is part of a larger campaign by the CT Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to crackdown on motorists who choose to text, talk or otherwise distract themselves from the task of driving.

The *U Drive. U Text. U Pay.* campaign is national in scope and includes 50 law enforcement agencies from around the state. Police will be out in force looking to identify, stop, and cite motorists who choose to ignore Connecticut's hand-held mobile phone ban and distracted driving laws.

The fines range from \$150 for the first offense, \$300 for the second violation, and \$500 for each subsequent violation.

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger the safety of drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclist. As text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far one of the most alarming distractions.

Our goal is simple. We want to save lives by enforcing Connecticut's tough penalties for distracted driving, namely texting while driving. According to the latest data from NHTSA, nationwide in 2013, 3,154 people were killed and an estimated 424,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

While the focused enforcement mobilization will end on April 30, 2015, Bristol officers will continue to enforce Connecticut's hand held mobile phone ban throughout the year.

Law enforcement's goal, with your help is to make Connecticut a safe place to live and travel.

Prepared by: LT Edward Spyros